

Saint Croix County 2017 Green Tier Legacy Community Annual Report

for Saint Croix County's participation in the Sustainability Component of the Green Tier Legacy Communities Charter

Summary of sustainable initiatives and activities undertaken in the County in 2017. Note that many of the long-term initiatives identified in the 2016 Annual Report are ongoing but are not reflected in this report as it is primarily focused on new initiatives and activities:

LAND USE

- Assisted towns of Washington and Union to complete 10-year comprehensive plan updates, which include policies to promote efficient land use and sustainability
- Began comprehensive amendment to the zoning ordinance which will modernize the code and integrate best practices for sustainable development including conservation subdivision design

ENVIRONMENT

- **Annual Tree Sales:** Since 1983 the Eau Claire County Land Conservation Division has held an annual tree and shrub sale, which will be held on May 18th this year. To date, over a million trees have been sold.
- **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP):** The Land Conservation Division has helped 101 landowners enroll over 991 acres of land in the CREP program, which helps farms meet their conservation goals, particularly those who farm or graze animals along rivers and streams

ENERGY

- **Energy Efficiency:**
 - Partnered with Focus on Energy for the following Energy reduction Projects:
 - Replaced all T-12/T-8 Bulbs with LED conversions.
 - Replaced Government Center Parking Lot Lighting with LED dimmable fixtures.
 - Completed the Renovation of the skilled
 - (33 metal halide pole light fixtures to LED, 31 CFL wall pack fixtures to LED), which will save an equivalent of 200,936 pounds of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent over 10 years
 - Replaced 250 T8 fluorescent bulbs with LED tubes in outlying facilities
- **Solar**
 - Recently completed a solar feasibility study for the County's Agricultural Center

WASTE

- Two tire collection events were held at five co-sponsoring municipalities. 13.35 tons of tires were collected in the spring and 10.35 tons of tires were collected in the fall.
- Two appliance collection events were held at six co-sponsoring municipalities. 18.45 tons of appliances were collected in the spring and 21.94 tons of appliances were collected in the fall.
- Spring and fall Clean Sweep hazardous waste collections were held for the first time in seven years. It was the first time in St. Croix County Clean Sweep history that there were 3 collection days open to residents.

- 14,429 pounds of latex paint was collected at the 2017 Clean Sweep Hazardous Waste collection events. This is 56.4% more latex paint collected than the 2016 collection.
- 78,041 pounds of hazardous waste was collected at our Clean Sweep collection from 38 businesses, 17 farms and 951 households. This is an increase of 32.2% of the weight of hazardous waste collected compared to the 2016 collection.
- 227 special event recycling bins were rented out for 23 events.
- Sold 54 compost bins in conjunction with the tree sale to promote backyard composting of yard waste and food scraps.
- Recycling Facebook page has 686 “likes” at the end of 2017, 20.4% more than at the end of 2016.

Education

- Two issues of the *Your Wasteline* recycling newsletter were mailed to all county households in April and September.
- Recycling specialist spoke to eleven community, school and civic groups, providing recycling education to 280 people.
- County Pinterest page continued to be utilized to provide information on natural cleaners, reuse projects, waste reduction, composting and recycling facts.